Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes DRAFT
October 27th, 2009
SU-216

Present:
Tony Adams, Dennis Grammenos, Frank Perino, Dario Villa, Judith Kaplan-Weinger, Janalyn Meehan, Rodney Higginbotham, Tony Adams, Jianfeng Jiang, Eleni Makris, Sandra Beyda-Lorie, Phyllis Le Dosquet

Absent:
Denise Cloonan-Cortez, Shahrzad Mahootian, Sue Mungre, Selina Mushi

Ex-Officio:
Provost Larry Frank

Chair Kaplan-Weinger called the meeting to order at 1:46.

Minutes: tabled

Report from the Chair:

MAP funding and student-faculty alliance
The re-establishment of MAP funding has been signed by Governor Quinn, which is great. However, we should make ourselves ready for the next funding crisis by opening communication channels between faculty and students. I emailed the Student Government president introducing myself and stating an intention to open up the possibility for dialogue. We might want to consider inviting him to a meeting.

Senate vacancy seats
According to the by-laws (part A.2 read aloud by E. Makris) I can appoint a faculty member who has previously served on the senate to fill a vacancy if the election results show no runners-up. In the case of the College of Business and Management, I intend to appoint Hamid Akbari and Emmanuel Nyadroh if they are willing to serve. I will ask if the runners-up for an College of Arts and Sciences seat who are tied (Lydia Filus and Marina Polyashuk) if one of them is willing to serve.

NEIU Shared Governance Organizational Chart (hand-out)
This may be outdated as it is from 2001, but we could look at it to see if we want to update on or ask the President's Office to create one.
The following comments were made:

- an updated chart is needed
- the Advisory Committee on International Programs needs to be added
- link to administrative channels for each council committee are missing that shows who in administration attends the meetings and responds to the advice

It was agreed that the Steering Committee would bring the Shared Governance Organizational Chart to the President to discuss an updated version.

Report from the Provost

Map funding

We should congratulate each other and our students on the reinstatement of MAP funding. We should anticipate two problems:

- the possible requirement that certain criteria- such as minimum GPA or ACT scores- be met in order for a student to qualify for MAP funding, which would be unfortunate as many students may not be eligible due to the same conditions that the funding is meant to alleviate
- the possible elimination of specific programs

Furthermore, with the stimulus money gone by next spring, higher education will suffer because traditionally we have not been as vocal as other groups in Springfield. We need to change that.

Strategic Work Plan

Feedback is wanted on this; we have not had a chance to talk about it yet. The basic issue beyond the budget is retention, which is a complex problem to address. We would like to explore the possibility of student residential life.

The following comments were made:

- a third year experience program to provide more shepherding
- helping students decide on a major with improved advising
- establishing a student mentorship program
- linking general education courses to specific majors to encourage students to think about their majors early
- more career guidance
- use the reading lab as a location for mentorship

Fire code enforcement in the A-wing

It has been clarified that faculty are not required to by the fire department to have their doors closed while they are in their offices. Doorstops are now being issued.

Old Business

Chair Kaplan-Weinger will discuss the opening up a faculty civil service communication channels with Judy Brewer of the Administrative and Professional Council (A&P Council)

Standing council and committee representative are invited to present.

Faculty Interviews will be due November 10th in Bloomington, the questions focus on the meaning and practice of shared governance and academic freedom (hand-out). A subcommittee will be selected to write up a summary

Subcommittee on Academic Freedom: Climate Survey (E. Makris)

We consulted Blase Masini of Institutional Research who told us that he has already a lot of data on faculty opinion that would serve a climate report if he does a factor analysis using the data. We are therefore working on a definition of 'climate' in order to proceed and will put together a report.

Letter of Appreciation to Allen Shub
Motion approval of the letter penned by D. Villa (F. Perino, S. Beyda-Lorie) passed.

Steering Committee report (F. Perino, E. Makris): shared governance
President Hahs stated that she wanted to start anew in creating a shared governance document rather than update the document signed by former president Steinberg, which she had reviewed line by line. She asked that the committee members do a literature review of the term 'shared governance.' Other documents and policies should inform the creation of the document, according to the president.
The following are the comments by Steering Committee members:

- the results of an initial inquiry showed that shared governance has a history of being used to reduce rather than strength faculty voice in universities
- the president seemed genuinely open to dialogue with faculty on the topic
- shared governance should be understood as it relates to academic freedom

Provost Frank commented that shared governance is a multi-faceted topic, where the strength of faculty voice changes according to facet, curriculum having the strongest faculty voice while budget having less and encouraged the membership to address the topic of shared governance. He added that shared governance has been a tradition since 1917 that today universities are under more pressure than traditionally to conform to external expectations.

Announcements
The next meeting date has been changed from November 10th to November 17th due to Chair Kaplan-Weinger's attending the Council of Illinois University Senates (CIUS) meeting that day. She will report on the meeting on November 17th.

Motion to adjourn (F. Perino, E. Makris) passed.